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LIFESTYLE COLUMNISTS

Find out what's new at the library with Wowbrary



FILE PHOTO/Abilene Travel Guide-VirtualTourist
Abilene Public Library

Yesterday 7:32 p.m.

Happy Labor Day. I hope you all are enjoying your day off — perhaps reading a good book, listening to some music or watching a DVD from your Abilene Public Library.

If you like to do any of those things, your library has a wonderful email service you can subscribe to that will tell you about the new books, CDs and DVDs that come into our collection each week. It's called Wowbrary, and it's free.

Wowbrary serves as an attractive online version of the "new book" shelf, but one that spans all library branches, includes items that are checked out, and comes by convenient email or RSS feed for those who don't visit the library's website or facilities regularly.

By showcasing the latest arrivals and allowing patrons to click directly to the library's website, Wowbrary makes it easy to quickly scan what's new.

Wowbrary makes it easy for you to browse through the latest additions and place a hold on a new title. It's very easy to subscribe — just click on the Wowbrary widget on the library's homepage, www.abilenetx.com/apl. Then enter your ZIP code to see what libraries in your area subscribe. If your home library subscribes as we do, just enter your email address and you're good to go.

Privacy is never a problem with Wowbrary — organizers carefully protect the privacy of your email address, will not share it with any other organization, and will use it only to send you these notices. And, of course, you may choose to opt out any time you like.

The weekly emails are brim full of our newest, most interesting items. You can look at the top 20 choices of books, music and movies, or you can just look at the items in your favorite genre or subject area. You can expand your reach by clicking on the "More New Items by Category" link, then scrolling through the various fiction and nonfiction groupings. You also can preview some of the books via Google Preview.

If you like Wowbrary and want to share it with your friends, you can click a link to send an email to them without compromising their email address. You also can send them a link to the website.

Your Abilene Public Library receives new materials practically every day. It may not be convenient, however, to drop what you're doing at any particular moment and come to one of our locations to browse

through the new items. So, subscribe to Wowbrary and place a hold on the book, CD or DVD you want, then come in to pick it up when it's convenient for you.

Take a look at our Wowbrary service ... we think you'll say "Wow" when you do.

Janis C. Test is information services manager at the Abilene Public Library, 202 Cedar St.

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